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EDINBURGH, Royal Edinburgh

Hospital for Mental and
Nervous Disorders.

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REPORT

FROM THE
MANAGERS

OF THE

EDINBURGH

LUNATIC ASYLUM,

FOR THE

YEAR 1822;

Presented to the General Meeting of Contributors, held in terms of the Royal Charter, on the 28th of January 1822.

SIR WILLIAM FORBES, *Bart. in the Chair.*

AT the end of the eighth year from the opening of the Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum, for the reception of those subjected to the deplorable calamity of Mental Derangement, the Managers have great satisfaction in being able to state to the General Annual Meeting of Contributors, that the experience of every day continues to afford them additional evidence of the benefits resulting from the Institution under their care. The very limited accommodation, indeed, which the buildings at first erected have hitherto

afforded, has necessarily restricted these benefits within narrow bounds. But, since the Institution was first opened for the reception of the Insane, in the year 1813, the number of Patients received into it has amounted to *One hundred and five* unfortunate individuals. All these have enjoyed a comfortable Asylum, when in a state of mind which rendered confinement necessary, either for their own safety, or for relief of others ; and several of them have had a complete recovery from a disease perhaps the most deplorable to which the human species are subjected.

AT the 1st of January 1821, there were in the Asylum twenty-four Patients, in apartments which were intended only for the reception of twenty. During the course of the year, eleven new patients were admitted. Of these thirty-five, nine were dismissed during the course of the year ; so that, at the 1st of January 1822, there remained in the Asylum twenty-six Patients, but without all that accommodation, either for comfort or recovery, which it was the great object of this Institution to afford.

BUT, besides that, during the whole course of the year 1821, the number of Patients in the

Asylum was greater than the buildings already finished were intended to accommodate, many urgent applications were made to the Managers for the admission of Patients to whom there was a great prospect of doing much good, but whom they were obliged to refuse for the want of necessary apartments. From these circumstances, they came to the resolution of entering immediately into a contract for finishing, without farther delay, a portion of their intended buildings, mentioned in a former Report, although they had not sufficient funds for the payment of it in the hands of their banker : For no considerable addition has been made to their funds, since the legacy which they received from that truly benevolent man, the late **ADAM ROLLAND**, Esq. of which mention was made in their Report to the Contributors for the year 1819,

THIS addition to their present accommodations was begun in Spring 1821, and is now finished. It will be fit for the reception of Patients as soon as the plaster-work is sufficiently dry for its being inhabited with safety. That ingenious architect Mr **REID**, to whose gratuitous assistance they have formerly acknowledged great obligations, has still continued to exert, in the most assiduous

manner, his distinguished abilities for the improvement of the Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum. Since he furnished them with those Plans, which were published in the year 1809, annexed to a Work, entitled “*Observations on the Structure of Hospitals for the Treatment of Lunatics, and on the General Principles on which the Cure of Insanity may be most successfully conducted,*” he has had an opportunity of visiting, with a discerning eye, almost every commodious Asylum for the Insane, which has lately been built, either in England, in Scotland, or in Ireland. These visits have led him to make many considerable improvements on his original Plan. In the building now erected, which is calculated for the accommodation of thirty-nine Patients, every convenience for the cure of Insanity, with every possible advantage, will be obtained; and, after accurate inspection of this additional house, by intelligent visitors, the Managers are assured, that, for the removal of Insanity, where the disease admits of cure, the Lunatic Asylum, at Edinburgh, is now not excelled, and perhaps hardly equalled by any Lunatic Asylum in Britain. They, therefore, confidently trust, that further contributions from the benevolent, will soon enable them to discharge a debt contracted for a purpose of very great importance to the Public.

REPORT
FROM THE MANAGERS OF THE
EDINBURGH LUNATIC ASYLUM,
FOR THE
YEAR 1822;

Presented to the General Meeting of Contributors, held in terms of the Royal Charter, on the 27th of January 1823.

The Reverend Dr INGLIS *in the Chair.*

AT the end of the ninth year from the opening of the Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum, for the reception and recovery of those subjected to the deplorable calamity of Mental Derangement, the Managers have great satisfaction in being able to state to the General Annual Meeting of Contributors, that the experience of every day continues to afford them additional evidence of the benefits resulting from the Institution under their care.

DURING the year 1822, fifteen Patients only, indeed, have been admitted, in consequence of the same number being dismissed, as no part of the New Building, mentioned in the Report of last year, was in a proper condition for the reception of patients.

OF these fifteen, five have left the Asylum in a state of perfect convalescence, and three considerably improved. The seven others were removed to private Asylums, or redelivered to their relations, nearly in the same state as when admitted.

THE additional New Building, mentioned in a former Report, is not only finished, but the whole plaster-work is so dry, that it is now completely fitted for the reception of Patients. And by this means about Forty more Patients than last year can in future be accommodated, with perfect convenience, in the Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum. In this new accommodation, their ingenious architect Mr REID, has particularly had in view to furnish the Physicians with every convenience which can contribute to recovery, either by close confinement when requisite, or by a limited society, with

others very nearly in the same situation with themselves, when such society may be thought conducive to the cure. And the Managers have set apart two galleries in the New Building, which are to be entirely appropriated to recent cases, the one for Male, the other for Female Patients.

FROM the excellent plan on which this new part of the Edinburgh Asylum has been finished, the Managers are well assured, by intelligent visitors, that there is no Lunatic Asylum in Britain, which affords better or more comfortable accommodation, for a fair prospect of recovery, than the Lunatic Asylum at Edinburgh. And although, by an order from any Manager, the Building may be seen by Visitors, yet the strictest attention is given, that the Patients be kept in a state of the utmost privacy.

THE sum paid for this addition has indeed been very considerable, and the Managers have not only expended all the money already transmitted to them by Contributors, both at home and abroad, but have also incurred a considerable

debt ; and, with the exception of His Majesty's benevolent Donation of One Hundred Guineas, which he was pleased to direct to be paid to the Institution, at the time of his late Gracious Visit to Edinburgh, they have not received any large donation during the year 1822. But they confidently trust, that the aid of the benevolent will soon enable them to extinguish the debt at present incurred, and thus put it in their power to extend the blessings of the Institution to those in narrow circumstances, by a reduction of the sum demanded for board, at least for a limited time in recent cases, so as to afford a good opportunity for recovery, by appropriate means of cure. But till their debt be extinguished, this desirable object cannot be accomplished.

CONTRIBUTIONS intended for the Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum, may be paid, as formerly, to Messrs RAMSAYS, BONAR and Company, who have acted as Bankers for this Establishment ever since its commencement ; and at whose Counting House, in the Royal Exchange, may be seen a complete List of all the Contributors to the Lunatic Asylum of Edinburgh, both at home and abroad.

REPORT
FROM THE MANAGERS OF THE
EDINBURGH LUNATIC ASYLUM,
FOR THE
YEAR 1823;

Presented to the General Meeting of Contributors, held in terms of the Royal Charter, on the 26th of January 1824.

AT the end of the tenth year of the Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum, for the reception and recovery of those subjected to the most deplorable of all diseases, Mental Derangement, the Managers have great satisfaction in being able to state to the General Annual Meeting of Contributors, that the experience of every day continues to afford them additional evidence of the benefits resulting from the Establishment under their care.

On the 1st of January 1823, there were in the Asylum twenty-three patients. During the course of that year eighteen were admitted, and seventeen were dismissed. Of these seventeen lunatics, seven left the Asylum in a perfectly sound state of mind, and five with their mental faculties very considerably improved. Five others have been removed by

their friends, who had placed them in the Asylum, that an attempt might be made towards their recovery, from the hopes that they were still in a recoverable state. But after a proper trial, of different means of cure, without that object being in any degree obtained, they were removed from the Asylum, nearly in the same state of Mental Derangement, as at the time of their admission.

All the patients at present in the Edinburgh Asylum, are now most commodiously accommodated in the new buildings mentioned in former Reports ; and there is at present ample accommodation for about thirty more patients, with every convenience for giving a fair trial to every proper means of recovery. Any newly admitted patient may have both a sitting and sleeping apartment solely appropriated to himself. Nay, a patient can be accommodated with a separate building entirely for his own use, where he may be attended by his own servants, and have the attempts to cure conducted by the Physicians in ordinary to the Establishment, Dr SPENS and Dr DUNCAN *jun.*, under the inspection of the Medical Board, consisting of the Presidents of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, with Dr DUNCAN *sen.*, Dr STUART, and JAMES LAW, Esq.

Where such ample accommodation is not required, every patient has a sleeping apartment appropriated to himself, and every five have the use of a parlour in common to them, in which they may enjoy such a degree of society and amusement as their

unfortunate condition will allow. There are also attached to this Asylum gardens and airing grounds, with shaded walks, which may tend to promote both the health and happiness of unfortunate lunatics.

This Asylum is placed in a very healthy situation, about two miles from Edinburgh, with a full view of the Pentland Hills, the Frith of Forth, and other beautiful scenery. From the situation of the grounds, both for health and amusement, with which it is surrounded, and from the accommodation afforded in the different buildings of which it consists, several intelligent visitors, after a careful inspection, have given it as their decided opinion, that there is not an Asylum in Europe in which an unfortunate individual, subjected to a state of Mental Derangement, has a better chance of recovery, than in the Lunatic Asylum of Edinburgh.

In that Asylum every proper attention is paid to due secrecy. For although, by an order from a Manager, the building may be inspected by any visitor; yet the strictest attention is bestowed, that the patients be kept, when necessary, in a state of the utmost privacy. And no visitor can see any patient but in a separate room, and by a special licence, from the Physician who has the care of the patient, and who certainly is the best judge whether his patient be in a condition to be visited or not.

Although the sum obtained for building this Lunatic Asylum, by voluntary subscriptions, not only from the Inhabitants of Edinburgh, but from other parts of the British Empire, particularly from the

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British settlements in Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, has been very considerable ; yet the Managers have not only expended all the money already remitted to them, but have incurred some debt, in finishing the Edinburgh Asylum, in the manner recommended to them as best fitted for recovery from insanity. They have, however, little doubt, that farther contributions from the benevolent will soon enable them to extinguish that debt. And they confidently hope, that when this Report is read by those at a distance from Edinburgh, who have already contributed to this Establishment for the cure of Mental Derangement, they will derive much satisfaction from reflecting, that their subscriptions have been faithfully and judiciously appropriated to the purpose for which they were intended,—the establishment of an Asylum where the cure of unfortunate Lunatics may be conducted with every accommodation which can tend to the recovery of those who are subjected to the most deplorable of all calamities, Mental Derangement.

Farther aid to the Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum, may be remitted to WILLIAM SCOTT, Esq. W. S. 43. Northumberland Street, the Treasurer, or to Messrs RAMSAYS, BONARS and COMPANY, Bankers, Royal Exchange, Edinburgh, who have been Bankers to this Institution ever since its commencement ; and at whose Counting House may be seen a complete List of all the Contributors to the Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum, both at home and abroad.

